

REMARKS

Claims 20-21, 23-24, 26-28, 30-31, 34, 37, and 40-43 are pending in the present application. Claim 20 is currently amended. Subject matter added to claim 20 is supported by the specification on page 11, line 25 to page 12, line 6. No new matter is inserted into the application.

Request for Interview

Applicants' representative has tried to contact the Examiner to schedule an interview. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kristi L. Rupert, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 45,702) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 20-21, 23-24, 26-28, 30-31, 34, 37, and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Huse '762 (USP 5,681,726) in view of Gelfand '292 (USP 5,939,292), further in view of Frye '041 (USP 6,008,041), and further in view of Cocuzza '701 (USP 5,484,701). Applicants respectfully traverse. Reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the instant rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the instant claims as amended are not obvious over the cited references. Withdrawal of the instant rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner also rejects claims 26 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Huse '762 in view of Gelfand '292, further in view of Frye '041, further in view of Cocuzza '701, and further in view of Dodge '117 (USP 5,912,117). Applicants respectfully traverse. Reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the instant rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the instant claims as amended are not obvious over the cited references. Withdrawal of the instant rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

MSW/KLR:gmh
1422-0411P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000